

Solway Community Technology College Newsletter No.27



December 2014

I must thank parents once again for supporting all the Charity events we run. We collected Shoe Boxes for the Christmas Appeal to give to less fortunate children across the world a gift at Christmas and most recently we took part in the NSPCC Christmas Jumper day, raising **£78.35** for that charity and **£50** for children's cancer charity. I am so glad we are such a caring community.

Molly Thomas came back to share her experiences from her trip of a life time – 28 days in Africa, kayaking across the Zambezi and climbing down to the base of the Victoria Falls. Her photos were stunning!

Gen 2 have spoken to Year 11s about possible future careers. Green Screen training has been organised for budding TV presenters and recording technicians. **Dr Ian Johnson** came to talk to the upper school about nano science and the **Rev Rothwell** has regularly given assemblies on our various weekly themes.

The annual Hospitality & Catering banquet was a great success once again, and the Taming of the Shrew performance in Keswick was fabulous. **Cara de Mello** is performing there in Peter Pan over Christmas. Do go to support her if you can. I am sure it will be brilliant.

My head boy and head girl took part in Children's Commissioner Take over Day; shadowing me for the day and our Year 11s are just sitting their final RE mock, and will now be anticipating their results after Christmas. May I remind parents of Year 10 and 11 that the Destinations Evening, where lots of post 16 providers are present to discuss opportunities for your child, is open to both year groups. Please make the most of this chance to speak to staff from the colleges, sixth forms and employers who also offer apprenticeships and training.

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Potts on the birth of their beautiful daughter Ava Gillian.



I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We start back on Tuesday 6th January 2015.

Mrs L Baird
Headteacher



Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values



Rotary Junior Master Chef

Tuesday 2nd December was a very busy afternoon for our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering pupils as they demonstrated their practical skills, producing a two course meal for the first heat of the Rotary Junior Master Chef.

All pupils completed this task exceptionally well and gave the judges a real challenge to decide on the top places. This year for the first time, pupils had to produce the same menu, which enabled judges not only to compare flavours and presentation, but also judge the skill demonstrated in the production of the meal. I am very proud of all Year 10 pupils who took part and would like to say "Well done!" to them. After much deliberation our local Rotarians have chosen **Ben Harrison** to represent Silloth Rotary Club and Solway Community Technology College in the Rotary district heats due to take place in early February 2015.



Fundraising

Once again pupils stepped up to the mark, supporting charity events for good causes.

Friday was the NSPCC Christmas Jumper day where all sported their fabulous jumpers and paid for the privilege, the money going in part to support those working to prevent cruelty to children while the rest goes to support children's cancer charities. As you can see our former pupil, Jaymie-lea, has bravely demonstrated her support for the cancer charity by having her hair shaved off, which will go to the Little Princess charity which provides real hair wigs for children with cancer.



FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2014



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Christmas Banquet 2014

Saturday 6th December is certainly a day that the Year 11 Hospitality and Catering pupils will never forget. Arriving in school between 8 and 9 am, yes some were early, this enthusiastic group of pupils immediately got to work preparing the food for their Christmas Banquet. In a busy, organised atmosphere, pupils worked exceptionally well together prepping the multitude of products required for the evening service. Their "Team work" was very good and they maintained an incredible level of helpfulness and cooperation throughout the very long day and evening. As well as preparing and cooking the food, pupils also had to transform the school hall into a banquet venue, setting up the tables and work areas and preparing our school canteen for the evening service.

This year for the first time, our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering pupils arrived to assist with the Front of House service, proving to be an invaluable help throughout the evening. Thank you, Year 10.

The atmosphere throughout the evening was wonderful, and from the comments made by our customers, everyone had a really good time and thoroughly enjoyed the food. Pupils were congratulated on the standard of service and the quality of the food; from the customer satisfaction cards completed at the end of the evening 100% of our customers would come again to this event. By the end of the evening we were all very tired, however pupils did not lose their determination to finish the event well as well as working really hard putting the hall back to rights for school on Monday morning.

Our special thanks go to the following people for helping us with this really important event: **Shona** for organising and running the bar with **Susan** for the evening, **Fausto** for his help with the setting up of the hall and ensuring that our pupils produced Hotel standard place settings, **Mrs Hoodless, Mrs Caulfield** and **Mrs Heath** for working throughout the evening in the canteen with our kitchen brigade enabling this event to take place. **Tony Markley** for writing and delivering the "Grace" and our Chair of Governors, **Professor Pimblott** who expressed thanks to all pupils and staff involved at the end of the evening. I should also like to thank **Mrs Martin** for her help during the day, providing encouragement and assistance to the whole group. Finally I should like to thank our customers, many of whom reserve their tables a year in advance and never fail to support us in our efforts.

Well done Year 11, you make my job a pleasure and I am very proud of you all.

J Cooper



Primary Maths Day

The Mathematics department was delighted to have the Year 5 Primary School pupils with us last week and impressed to see so much hard work going on all day. The pupils really seemed to enjoy themselves too.

Here are a few of the comments made in their evaluations;

I like a challenge and working with others;

I thought it was brilliant and I loved it;

I liked meeting new people and going around the school;

at first I was a bit nervous but once I got used to it I did not want it to finish;

I enjoy solving problems, and many more in the same vein.

What a great group we hope to have joining us in two years' time. A big thank you to **Lucy, Paris, Holly, Bradley and Roy** from Y8 who helped run the day.

Thank you.

Mr Hailwood

Chess

Chess club is up and running again for the winter months. It is held on a Tuesday lunch time. You can get a fast track lunch pass through the dinner hall and come straight down to Room 11. All ages welcome!

If you have never played before but want to learn then come down and learn!

Maths Puzzle

Come and find Mr Hailwood with the correct answer first and win a praise postcard.

To promote the launch of a new tasty chocolate bar they are offering a, "buy four, get one free" deal.

If each chocolate bar costs thirty pence, how much would ten chocolate bars cost?

How much would seventeen chocolate bars cost?

Can you find a rule/formula for calculating the cost of any number of chocolate bars?

Movie makers

A few weeks ago, myself, **Cara de Mello, Grace Wedgwood** (an ex-pupil of Solway) and **Rowan Pierce** (another ex-pupil), entered the Cumbria Short Film Competition. We had to create a short film no longer than 12 minutes to enter into the competition. We had previously entered the competition last year but hadn't made the shortlist, so this year the pressure was on to make an even better film. The deadline for the 20th October was drawing nearer and so far we only had a couple of ideas for a short film. Making a film normally takes about 3 days at the least but we only had 2 nights after school. To make things worse we only had about 2 hours of light as the days are much shorter now we are in winter! So the 4 of us worked hard to produce a film worthy of a prize in less than 6 hours. It was a struggle to upload our film to YouTube 20 minutes before the final deadline! But we did it and we were over the moon.

On the 11th November the shortlist was announced... and we were on it!! This meant that our film was to be played in front of an audience at the Old Laundry Theatre, Windermere.

After the build up of excitement the 20th November had arrived. It was the night of the viewing at the Old Laundry Theatre! Cara, Grace, Rowan and I set off to arrive at 7:30 for the start of the show! Our film was played first along with a variety of films. All fingers were crossed to win 1st place with a prize of £100 or 2nd place with a prize of £50, all runners up were also awarded a certificate for getting shortlisted. There were 3 categories; documentary, over 18 and under 18. Three films, including our film, had been shortlisted into the under 18 category out of 6 which had been entered. In the end we came 3rd and won a runners up certificate, which was a great achievement for us all! To watch our film simply type in "MovieMockers2012" into Youtube and look for the film named "Crossover". All in all we had a great time and I would definitely advise other filmmakers to enter! Fingers are crossed for next year!

Lorna de Mello





Christmas Cake Club 2014
Well done everyone



Inter-House Competition

Open Cross Country Results

Newton 100 + 13	Sharman 80 + 8	Franklin 60 + 9	Dalton 40 + 11
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Congratulations to **Newton** for winning the Open Cross Country.

KS4 Boys Winner: Dean Hewitson
 KS3 Boys Winner: Alfie Wise
 KS4 Girls Winner: Ellie Scott
 KS3 Girls Winner: Mia Johnston

Points Standings after Cross Country:

	Points	Participation Points	Total
Sharman	520	47	567
Franklin	480	53	533
Newton	440	46	486
Dalton	400	53	453

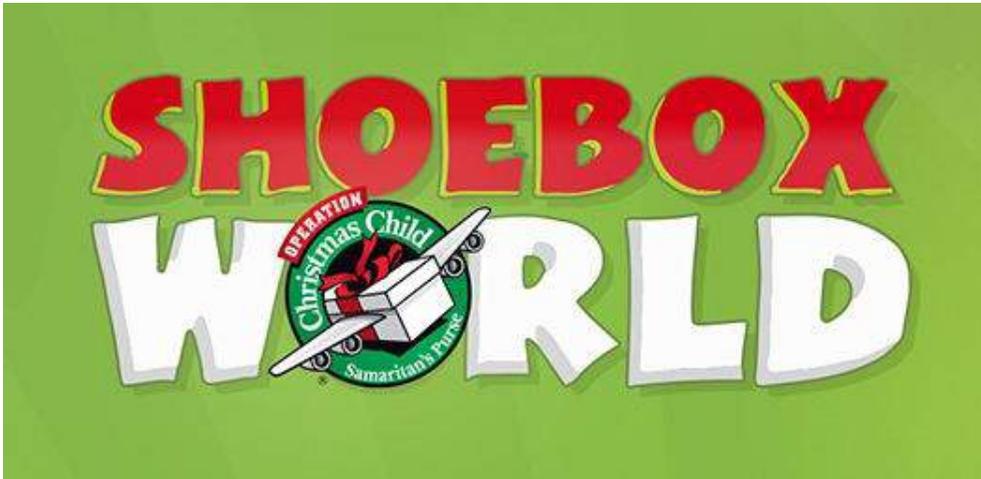
The general consensus is that the **X Country event** was a resounding success. We had 41 runners and a fantastic spirit throughout the race. Very few of the runners disappeared once they had completed the course and most stayed on to cheer other runners in regardless of House. **Dean** and **Lewis** ran the course twice to encourage the back markers to keep going. The first time the event was run as part of the IHC which came out of a feedback session we had with the Sports Captains at the end of the summer term, and we will almost definitely run this again next session.

Thanks to the time keepers and marshalls along the course, and to everyone who took part.



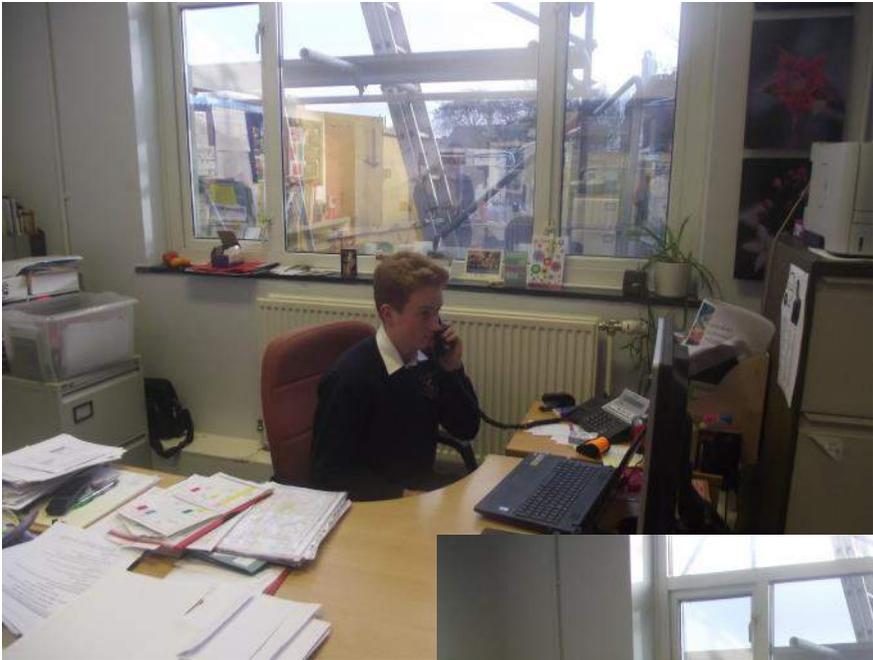


Thank you to all who sent in gifts and boxes for this appeal. Please start sending into school your empty shoe boxes as soon as you get any for next year's appeal.



Cross country winners presented with their medals by Rowan Carr





Children's Commissioner Takeover Day 2014 Friday 21st November

Mrs Baird arrived at school before 8am as usual, organising staff briefing and tackling early morning issues however that was as far as usual went as then our Head boy, Lewis Buckley, took over the reins at 8.55am. He had Ambassador Day to look forward to. This is where the Head and a guest or new member of staff visits every class each lesson where the pupil ambassadors who have already been nominated explain the purpose and the context of the lesson, what the pupils are actually doing and how the lesson is organised. It is a fabulous day – when everyone is on display – all pupils have a chance to be the ambassador and proudly share their experiences.

In between lessons, Lewis was asked for his views on a lighting issue which during the dark winter evening is a cause for concern for our Sports Hall after-school users – he decided that new LED flood lights were the way forward.

Then on to payroll – clearly Lewis didn't do that – but he knew that had to be done along with planning for the assembly on Monday morning, updating the white board, cheques to authorise and sign, running an Admin meeting, answering the phone, reviewing the ROA templates for later in the year the list goes on.

At lunch time, no time for lunch, Head girl, Lorna de Mello, joined Lewis at school council, where guests **Rowan Carr** and **Vicky Simmonds** were presenting possible solutions to the lack of out of school clubs for the local 13+ children. Issues of venues, volunteers and costings were discussed.

After registration Lewis returned to lessons while Lorna helped Mrs Baird to deliver a Year 8 maths lesson – an extra pair of hands is always useful.

Then the final ambassador day lesson involved Lorna dropping into each classroom, then giving her opinion about a request from an external candidate who would like to use our school for her GCSE Maths exam in November.

Finally at 3pm both Head Girl and Boy left for the weekend; a busy day, but by sharing the day they both should have a better insight into the role of Head teacher, leaving Mrs Baird to complete her work in school and load the car for the weekend's marking and future planning.



Congratulations

The winner of the parental surveys, a Sunday lunch at the Golf Hotel, was **Mary Williamson**. Well done. A treat in store.

The winner of the Tree tops voucher for two was **Natalie Whitfield**. Enjoy!

Email

If you wish to receive school letters and the newsletter by email and you are not already on our mailing list, or should you wish to comment on anything in this newsletter, or give us your views on any other school matters please email office@solway.cumbria.sch.uk

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Head teacher: Mrs. Lois Baird B.A.

Stamps

Please continue to collect and bring in to school, old used stamps from any letters or parcels

you receive. **Mrs Baird** sends them off to raise money for Eden Valley Hospice. A worthy cause.





Prize Giving

Mrs Baird was delighted to welcome **Katie Hunter**, Border TV and ex Channel 4 journalist, as our Guest of Honour for our annual Prize Giving Evening. After welcoming guests, Mrs Baird spoke of the most recent and ongoing building repair work with the scaffolding surrounding the building, which will finally fix the roof at a cost to the local authority of £400,000. Amounting to nearly a million pounds of work to heating and the roof over the past 3 years. It will be a relief for it to finish at Christmas but the buckets will not be missed.

The pupils from last year's Year 11 were welcomed back with pleasure from their post 16 studies or apprenticeships. The results from last summer made us proud of their achievements. Many pupils achieved 13 A* to C grades, we reached national levels of progress in both English and Maths and all pupils achieved at least 4 GCSEs. In future it will be fabulous to be able to offer AS levels here in Silloth.

The opportunities we offer all our pupils are varied:

A fabulous production of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* at Theatre by the Lake where our pupils' talents shone out making us so proud of them.

Our Yr10 & 11 PE trampolinists took part in a competition held in Dalston. They have only been trampolining for a few weeks yet in the U19 Girls beginners we took 1st place, in the U19 Boys beginners we took 1st and 3rd place and in the Novice class, a big group, the biggest in the competition, including county and regional bouncers we took 15th place. A fabulous achievement from a school with less than 200 pupils!

The future promises further changes: Pupils in Year 9 will be taking reformed GCSEs and be awarded grades from 9(better than A*) to 1. New specifications for the first group of GCSEs should be out in May for the September start. The next group of GCSEs will then follow in future years.

A/AS levels too are changing – as I am sure you are aware we will be offering a post 16 option here from September, very exciting.

Mrs Baird explained to the guests many pupils were nominated for prizes for the previous academic year and although only one could win for each subject they should be proud of the efforts all their children put in.



**Christmas Card
competition winners**



3rd place
Roy
Bervoets



2nd place
Ben
Mattinson



1st place
Jenny
Harrison





Solway Community



Price includes Skate hire and safety wear which **MUST** be worn by all primary school children



Sports Hall



are having

Christmas Roller Skating Sessions

**Prize for the best
festive jumper or
hat or both!!**

To secure your place please contact
Angela on 016973
31234
or call in to the
Sports Hall

MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER

3.15PM – 4.15PM & 4.30PM – 5.30PM

£2 PER PERSON!



BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL!

Christmas break Friday 19th Dec to Wed 5th Jan 2015

January

06/01/2015	T	Return to school
08/01/2015	Th	KS4 Assembly / House Competitions 3:15-4:15pm
09/01/2015	F	Yr 11 Mock Results day Yr 11 interviews with LB from 9am
12/01/2015	M	Vicar- Assembly 'Good friend' Yr 11 interviews with LB from 9:30am
13/01/2015	T	Ambassador Day Quiz - S
15/01/2015	Th	KS4 Assembly NCS Inspira / House Competitions 3:15-4:15pm
16/01/2015	F	Y11 ROAs home STEM Speed networking Yr 9 & 11 / Ski trip leaves for Bormio
17/01/2015	S	Ski trip Bormio
18/01/2015	S	Ski trip Bormio
20/01/2015	T	Ski trip Bormio Yr10 and 11 Destinations Evening- and Yr 11 Parents evening 5-7:30pm
22/01/2015	Th	KS4 Assembly / House Competitions 3:15-4:15pm /Ski trip Bormio
24/01/2015	S	Ski trip returns
27/01/2015	T	Quiz - F
28/01/2015	W	Dip/tet/polio Yrs 9 &10

February

02/02/2015	M	esafety Assembly Keith Hunton tbc
03/02/2015	T	Quiz - N
04/02/2015	W	Roast Dinner Day 1.15
05/02/2015	Th	KS4 Assembly / House Competitions 3:15-4:15pm
06/02/2015	F	L&Ms and Yr 9 ROAs home Numeracy Day LB to meet with all Yr 9s
09/02/2015	M	LB to meet with all Yr 9s
10/02/2015	T	Yr 9 Options Parents' evening 5-7pm Quiz - S Internet Safety day
11/02/2015	W	Yr 10 Netball tournament NTS
12/02/2015	Th	KS4 Assembly / House Competitions 3:15-4:15pm
13/02/2015	F	Possible Yr 9 History trip to QEGGS

Half term Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February

23/02/2015	M	Assembly Rev Rothwell - Honesty Yr 9 Option choices due
24/02/2015	T	Yr 11 BACS CA 1pm-5pm Sp+ Quiz - D
25/02/2015	W	University of Cumbria Yr 9 Peer mentoring p5
26/02/2015	Th	KS4 Assembly / House Competitions 3:15-4:15pm
27/02/2015	F	Why Uni? p4 KJ & Yr 7 / Star Student Yr 8 & KJ

March

02/03/2015	M	Franklin assembly Ambassador Day
03/03/2015	T	Yr 11 BACS CA 1pm-5pm non Sp. Yr 8 Parents' Evening 5-7pm Quiz F HPV
04/03/2015	W	Yr 7 Netball tournament WLA /Yr 9 Peer mentoring p5
05/03/2015	Th	KS4 Assembly / House Competitions 3:15-4:15pm World Book Day
11/03/2015	W	Yr 5 Science Day STEM Technology Challenge / Yr 9 Peer mentoring p5
12/03/2015	Th	KS4 Assembly / 7-11 Netball away Keswick / House Competitions
13/03/2015	F	Red Nose Day

Mr Sunter checking all his stuff ahead of the 2015 ski trip to Bormio, Italy. Although I think he may need to buy some new ski gear after losing six and a half stones this year.



The Taming of the Shrew

November 17th saw Solway pupils returning to the Theatre by the Lake in Keswick for the Shakespeare Schools' Festival, this year performing The



Taming of the Shrew. We had decided on a Wild West version of the play, and the characters appeared on horses (hobby!) with appropriate cowboy garb for the boys and Calamity Jane costumes for the girls – the judges commented that they had never seen such an original production of Shakespeare's original play, and that the comedic value of the production shone through throughout.

The whole cast was fabulous – they worked hard all term, including a day of their half term holiday, and thoroughly deserved the glowing reports and rapturous applause they received. Special mention must go to Dexter Johnston with an astonishing performance as Petruchio – I shall never forget his fantastic line dancing – and to Natalie Wood who was an utterly feisty and determined Kate.

We are truly such stuff as dreams are made of, as the bard said!